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Thus a great and striking change has taken place in this Pacific state from the time it was first seen by a white man up to the present day. It is with the social, political, and religious events that have occurred in this evolution of California that the book deals. Added to the historical value of the volume are its numerous illustrations and maps. WILBUR GREELEY BURROUGHS.

La República Mexicana. Reseñas Geográficas y Estadísticas. Vera Cruz, 86 pp. Coahuila, 49 pp. \$1.50. Nuevo León, 64 pp. \$1.50. Chihuahua, 26 pp. \$1.00. Chiapas. Por Enrique Santibáñez, 29 pp. \$1.25. Sonora, 10 pp. 90 cts. Territorio de la Baja California. Por Léon Dignet. \$1.50. Maps, ills., in each. C. Boret, Paris & Mexico, 1908-12. 13 x 10.

A popular description of Mexican territory by natives of the country. The work is informative in a broad sense with a tendency to emphasis on the country's natural resources and the economic conditions prevailing at the close of the Diaz régime. Condensed, yet clear descriptions of geographical and historical features as well as of the inhabitants and customs are presented along with numerous photographs and maps. It is to be hoped that the parts dealing with the remaining states will soon be issued. LEON DOMINIAN.

Life in Mexico during a Residence of Two Years in that Country.

By Madame Calderon de la Barca. Everyman's Library. xxxviii and 542 pp. J. M. Dent, & Sons, London, 1913 (?). 1s. 7 x 4½.

The original edition of Mme. Calderon de la Barca's *Life in Mexico* appeared in 1843. The recent reprint in Everyman's Library is equally timely, for it is a book worth reading about the intimate side of conditions in a country of which we know so much and so little. The letters which make up the volume are personal narratives, written in a delightfully appealing style, full of keen observations, kindly humor and sane philosophy. Modern Mexico is so little changed, in many essentials, from the Mexico of three-quarters of a century ago, that these letters seem to be of the very present. The volume is for the odd hour, rather than for continued reading.

RICHARD ELWOOD DODGE.

Mexico, the Wonderland of the South. By W. E. Carson. xiii and 499 pp. Map, ills., index. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1914. \$2.50. 8½ x 6.

A new edition containing data needed to bring the book up to date in view of the disturbances of the past three years. It is regrettable that the author did not arrange his topics in orderly sequence. He gives much accurate information that would be more useful if presented systematically. In spite of this defect the book is well worth reading. LEON DOMINIAN.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND WEST INDIES

Kostarika. Beiträge zur Orographie und Hydrographie. Von Prof. Henri F. Pittier. 48 pp. Map, profiles. *Ergänzungsheft No. 175 zu Petermanns Mitt.*, Gotha, 1912. 11 x 7½.

The map at the end of this monograph and the beautiful pen sketches that supplement it attract the attention far more than the text. The sketches give a clearer impression of the Costa Rican landscape than any quantity of photographs or than the forty-eight pages of description by the author. The ground plan of Costa Rica is here presented by a wealth of detail not formerly accessible in a single work. Each small subdivision of the country is described not only with reference to its mountain ranges, its valleys and plains, but also with reference to the individual mountains and even the hills and brooks. The result is that one may find here any topographic or hydrographic feature of Costa Rica in which he may be interested.

But, on the other hand, one finds little of philosophical interest. The trees and not the woods are kept constantly in the foreground. Such explanatory paragraphs as that on page 30, describing a recent change in the hydrography

of the Cordillera de Talamanca and the paragraphs on pages 31 and 32 dealing with the changes of level of the Atlantic coast seem rather more accidental than as parts of a definite plan. The long table of elevations, combined with the maps and detailed description, make this a valuable reference paper on the physical features of Costa Rica.

ISAIAH BOWMAN.

The Panama Canal. A History and Description of the Enterprise. By J. Saxon Mills. 344 pp. Maps, ills. Sully & Kleinteich, New York, 1913. \$1. 7½ x 5.

A third of the book is given to the canal project before the United States took hold of it. Excellent chapters are then given to the health problem on the isthmus and how it was solved and to the civil administration and phases of the social life after the arrival of the Americans. The problems of construction are then discussed, with chapters on the Culebra Cut and the locks. The completed canal is next described and the remainder of the book is devoted to a simply written exposition of the new ocean highways thus opened and the relations of the canal to the trade of the world. The author has succeeded in compacting a great deal of matter in small space and making all of it very readable.

The Panama Gateway. By J. B. Bishop. xiv and 459 pp. Map, ills., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1913. \$2.50. 9 x 6.

Although the output of books on Panama has been large during the past two years, few, if any, of their authors could claim to write with the fullness of knowledge which characterizes the present work from the pen of the Secretary of the Isthmian Canal Commission. Mr. Bishop first reviews the history of the events leading to the American purchase and control. He then gives an account of the construction and the conditions prevailing during the progress of the important work. His details, enlivened by bits of personal reminiscences, are illuminating. The work is probably the most instructive unofficial compilation on the canal. The author's position and his years of residence along the banks of the new waterway lend the weight of legitimate authority to everything he records.

LEON DOMINIAN.

SOUTH AMERICA

South America. By W. H. Koebel. Series: The Making of the Nations. x and 292 pp. Maps, ills., index. A. & C. Black, London. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1913. \$2. 8½ x 5½.

A creditable attempt to give the history of a continent within the narrow bounds of an ordinary volume. The presentation of events and conditions is brief perforce. It may not satisfy some readers. Nevertheless, the survey of South America's past is decidedly instructive. The mystery of the pre-Columbian period and the spell cast by the daring of explorers and colonizers burst through the limitations imposed by space. The author's genuine interest in South America is transcribed by a full-blooded hand. He writes broadly and impartially. The book should go far in imparting a better understanding of Latin Americans at this, the dawn of our intimacy with the many qualities characteristic of their race.

LEON DOMINIAN.

The Amazing Argentine. A New Land of Enterprise. By John F. Fraser. 291 pp. Ills., index. Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York, 1914. \$1.50. 8 x 5½.

A snappy, reportorial story of a tour through Argentina, which tells the tale of the now familiar South American tour, including the railroad trip in the tunnel through the Andes from Argentina to Chile. Although Argentina has far from reached its full development and is still a land of opportunity, there is a well-nigh insuperable chasm between the moneyed and the laboring classes. In spite of its stable government and sound financial system, Argentina still exacts a religious test of the occupant of the presidency. It supplies its grain and cattle to the world, it has an ever increasing railroad system, with luxurious modern accommodations, but it has no coal, and very little industrial development. There is no native art or literature.

DAVID H. BUEL.